

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 00140 091528Z

67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 NIC-01 /149 W

----- 080033

R 091409Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3754

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, CB

SUBJ: SOVIET POLICY TOWARD CAMBODIA

1. FRENCH AMBASSADOR VIMONT HAS NOTED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS GRUNK REPRESENTATIVE IN MOSCOW HAD BEEN ISSUED INVITATIONS AND HAD ATTENDED ALL OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS CONNECTED WITH NOV. 7 CELEBRATION.

2. IN FURTHER DEPARTURE FROM LAST YEAR, WE NOTE THAT PRAVDA NOV. 9 PUBLISHED NATIONAL DAY CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE SIGNED BY SIHANOUK AND PENN NOUTH. LAST YEAR, NO MESSAGES WERE ACKNOWLEDGED FROM EITHER GRUNK OR GKR. SIHANOUK MESSAGE THANKS USSR FOR RECENT

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 00140 091528Z

STATEMENT THAT IT HAS ALWAYS REGARDED HIM AS LEGAL HEAD

OF STTE AND GRUNK AS SOLE LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA. THIS IS FIRST TIME THESE FORMULATIONS HAVE APPEARED IN SOVIET PRESS, SINCE TASS ACCOUNT OF TOLSTIKOV'S CALL ON SIHANOUK (REFTEL) AVOIDED SPECIFICS.

3. VIMONT ALSO INFORMED ME THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED SIHANOUK WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN DURING CALL AT MFA ON NOV. 6. FIRYUBIN SAID HE ASKED HIMSELF FREQUENTLY WHY SIHANOUK STAYS "WHERE HE IS" INSTEAD OF RETURNING TO CAMBODIA. THERE WERE TWO POSSIBILITIES THAT OCCURRED TO HIM, FIRYUBIN ADDED. FIRST, SIHANOUK AND HIS GOVERNMENT SIMPLY PREFER BEING WHERE THEY ARE. MORE LIKELY, FIRYUBIN SAID, SIHANOUK DID NOT RETURN TO CAMBODIA BECAUSE HE WOULD NOT BE WELCOMED BY THE "PATRIOTS." FIRYUBIN CONCLUDED THIS PORTION OF TALK WITH VIMONT BY ALLEGING THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS ALWAYS PURSUED A CONSISTENT POLICY WITH REGARD TO CAMBODIA
DUBS

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